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BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Lew:

This letter follows up on the April 12, 2000 hearing of the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, entitled "Reinventing Paperwork?: The Clinton-Gore Administration's Record on Paperwork Reduction," and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) June 12th and July 19th responses to my April 14th and June 20th post-hearing followup questions.

Question 1c asked OMB why it is resisting my June 9, 1999 request for OMB to disclose its role in its review of agency paperwork submissions, as such disclosure is required by President Clinton's regulatory executive order. OMB's reply to Question 1c perpetuates OMB's illogical and mistaken view that requiring OMB to reveal changes made by OMB during the course of its Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) reviews "would impair its administration of the PRA." As I noted in five letters to OMB, revealing changes made by OMB is the only way Congress can hold OMB accountable, especially given the Clinton-Gore Administration's record of non-achievement in reducing paperwork burdens. I do not accept OMB's July 19th refusal to my repeated request for OMB to begin disclosing the results of its reviews, as of July 1, 2000.

Question 2 asked OMB why, since the Subcommittee's April 15, 1999 hearing that highlighted the absence of paperwork reduction initiatives by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which accounts for nearly 80 percent of the total government-wide paperwork burden on the American people, OMB had not increased its staffing of only one analyst working part-time on IRS paperwork. I do not accept OMB's July 19th refusal to my June 20th request that OMB immediately increase OMB's staffing devoted to IRS paperwork to at least three full-time analysts.


Question 3 asked OMB about the results of its reviews of the 60 most burdensome paperwork requirements, which equal 85 percent of the total government-wide burden on the

public. OMB's July 19th refusal to indicate the next expected date for substantive revision of each of the 60 and the process OMB will follow for each to ensure maximum burden reductions is unacceptable. I urge OMB to rethink its refusal.

Questions 6a and 6b asked if OMB has prepared a crosscutting analysis of paperwork burdens on small businesses and a crosscutting analysis of paperwork burdens on State and local governments. OMB's July 19th letter was nonresponsive on this topic. Roundtables are not a substitute for governmentwide crosscutting analyses. I urge OMB to conduct these needed analyses.

If you have any questions about this request, please call Professional Staff Member Barbara Kahlow on 226-3058. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



David M. McIntosh

Chairman

Subcommittee on National Economic Growth,
Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton
The Honorable Dennis Kucinich